

1 in 2000 · 1 in 2001
No Change

Murder

Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index Offenses, is based solely on police investigation, as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults with the intent to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.

Father Charged in Daughter's Death

Shortly before 2:30 p.m. on January 7, 2001, Cambridge police and fire units responded to an apartment in Jefferson Park. When officers arrived, they found an eleven-month-old baby lying on the bed unresponsive and not breathing. The baby was transported to the hospital, but later died.

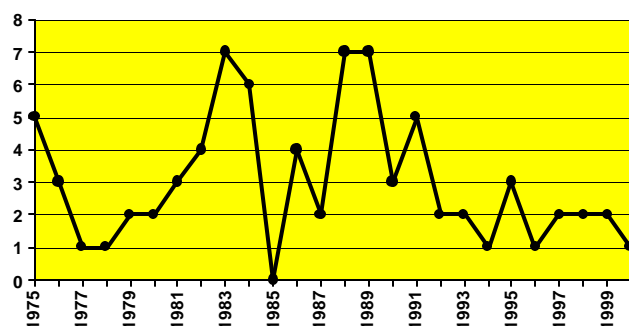
The baby's father, John Forbes of Roxbury had been watching the baby and her twin sister while their mother was at work. When emergency units arrived, Forbes stated that he had been feeding the twins oranges and that the infant in question had choked on an orange peel.

The medical examiner determined that the infant had died from massive trauma to her head. An autopsy determined that she had suffered brain and eye hemorrhaging consistent with "shaken baby" syndrome.

John Forbes was arrested and charged with the murder of his eleven-month-old daughter and was arraigned in Cambridge District Court on January 9, 2001.

Characteristics of Murder in Cambridge

Murder in Cambridge, 1975-2000



For the thirty-year period between 1960 and 1989, the city averaged four and a half murders each year. The annual average for the 1990 has fallen to just over two per year. (Nationally, cities of around 100,000 residents average six murders per year.) Trend analysis over the past decades points to three recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge:

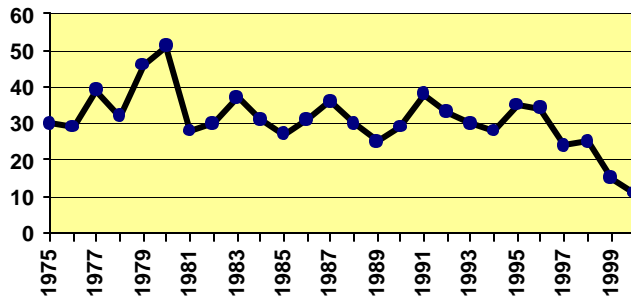
- ❑ **Domestic** murder, in which an elderly female is brutally killed by her husband in a homicidal rage;
- ❑ Arguments among the **homeless** that, often fueled by drugs or alcohol, escalate into deadly violence; and
- ❑ The murder of young men by handguns or knives in **street** robberies or drug deals gone awry.

9 in 2000 · 10 in 2001
11% increase

Rape

Forcible Rape, as defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, and assaults with the intent to commit rape, are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

Rape in Cambridge, 1975-2000



Rape has increased by one incident so far this year, a minimal increase, as last year's totals were the lowest seen in over 25 years.

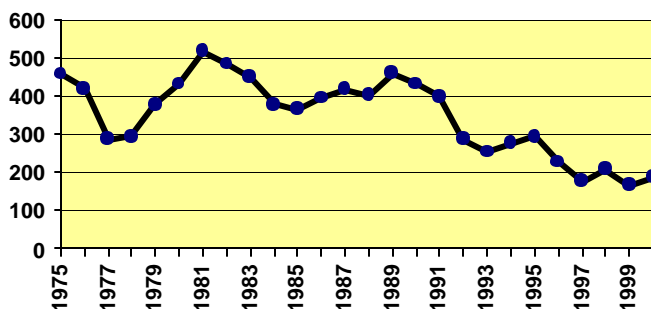
Eight of the ten rapes reported during the first nine months of 2001 were classified as acquaintance (non-stranger) incidents. There were two rapes recorded over the summer. In one of the crimes, the victim came forward to report a sexual assault that occurred last September.

130 in 2000 · 125 in 2001
4% decrease

Robbery

Robbery is the taking or attempted taking of anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. This crime includes muggings, purse snatchings, and bank hold-ups.

Robbery in Cambridge, 1975-2000



Type	3 rd Q. 2000	3 rd Q. 2001	% Change
Commercial Robbery	18	22	+22%
Street Robbery	112	103	-8%
Total	130	125	-4%

Robbery increased slightly in 2000, after a thirty-year low in 1999. The first three quarters of 2001 reported a slight decrease from last year maybe indicating that this crime will once again be on the decline.

Commercial Robbery

Commercial robberies increased 22% in the third quarter of 2001. Six gas stations, five restaurants, four banks, two parking garages, one taxicab, one video store, one drug store, one jewelry store, and one convenience store reported robberies.

The following is a summary of the gas station robberies that have been reported this year:

- Two of the gas station robberies occurred at the Magazine Beach Shell, located at 207 Magazine Street. The first occurred just after the new year when three suspects walked up to the teller and demanded money. The suspects motioned as if they had a gun in their pockets. The teller refused

and the suspects fled empty-handed in a green Jeep. The second occurred in June and was similar to the first except the suspects hit the window with a baseball bat and fled in a red Honda.

- In March, a suspect entered the Sunoco gas station at 266 Mass. Ave. and purchased a drink. When the worker opened the cash register, the suspect grabbed all the cash and fled. The worker chased the suspect until he saw the suspect take what looked like a gun out of his pocket.
- A strange robbery occurred at the Mobile gas station at 2055 Mass. Ave. when an Arlington man entered and demanded the Greek and American flags that were hanging up. When a worker tried to get the flags back, the man grabbed the worker by the throat and then fled by car. An arrest was later made.
- A gas station robbery occurred in April at a gas station at 209 Broadway. The suspect entered and didn't have enough money to pay for the gas he put in his car. The suspect then grabbed \$80 out of the worker's hands and punched the worker in the face twice before fleeing.
- The most recent gas station robbery occurred at the Shell gas station at 820 Memorial Drive. The suspect entered that store and purchased a pack of gum for \$5. When the worker opened the cash register the suspect grabbed \$100 out of the cash register and fled in a green Dodge Shadow.

Business Districts	3 rd Q. 1999	3 rd Q. 2000	3 rd Q. 2001
Galleria/East Cambridge	0	4	3
Kendall Square/MIT	0	1	3
Inman Square	2	3	2
Central Square	5	3	1
Cambridgeport/Riverside	0	1	3
Bay Square/Upper B. way	0	0	0
Harvard Square	0	2	4
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	3	0	2
Porter Square	2	2	2
Alewife/West Cambridge	1	2	2

the register.

- Two additional robberies were reported earlier in the year. The first involved a suspect who entered the Burger King, located at 679 Concord Avenue, brandishing a gun and demanding money. The suspect might have been an ex-employee. The second robbery occurred in Harvard Square at Pho Pasteur when a suspect entered the restaurant at closing time, pushed an employee aside, and stole the day's deposits. The suspect stated that he had a gun.

The first bank robbery of the year occurred in January at the Cambridge Trust Co. on Mass. Ave. A man entered the bank and approached the teller, threatening to kill her if she hit the alarm. The man fled with cash and on the way out threatened a manager. This robbery may have been linked to a series of Charlestown robberies. The second bank robbery occurred at the East Cambridge Savings Bank, located at 1 Canal Park. A robber came in with a note demanding money. When the teller hesitated, the robber threatened to shoot her. The third bank robbery occurred in April at the Fleet bank in Harvard Square. A suspect entered the bank and passed a note that he was robbing the bank. The teller stepped away and the robber calmly left the bank with nothing. In the third quarter, the Fleet bank at 1847 Mass. Ave. was robbed when a suspect entered the bank and passed a note and a duffel bag to the teller. The teller filled the bag with money and the suspect fled. No weapon was shown.

Two parking garages were robbed this year. The first occurred when two suspects tried to open two parking attendant booths, demanding money. Money was given to the suspects from the first booth, but the door to the second booth wouldn't open. The suspects then fled. The second occurred in early August when two suspects approached a parking attendant at 4 Cambridge Center. One suspect was carrying a

An increase in restaurant robberies was reported in the third quarter of 2001.

- Two of the incidents reported in the third quarter involved the robberies of two Dunkin Donuts franchises. The first involved a Weymouth man who attempted to rob the Dunkin Donuts on Concord Avenue with a fake gun. When the man was apprehended, three donuts were found in his possession. The second Dunkin Donuts incidents involved a man carrying a screwdriver, demanding cigarettes and food.
- The third incident reported in the third quarter involved a suspect who entered Joey Mac's Tavern and threatened to shoot someone if they stopped him from taking money from

gun and the other was carrying a screwdriver. The suspect with the screwdriver pried open the door to the booth, both suspects took the money in the cash register, stole the attendant's wallet, and then fled.

In early September, Cambridge had its first Oxycontin robbery. A suspect entered the CVS at 1426 Mass. Avenue and demanded the drug. The suspect mentioned a gun, but never showed one. He was given three bottles of Endocet and two bottles of Oxycontin. This year has been marked by a prolific number of Oxycontin robberies at drug stores in neighboring cities. Professional robbers carrying serious weapons wreaked havoc on pharmacies, unable to resist the money to be made on the street for this highly addictive drug. Remarkably, Cambridge pharmacies were untouched by this trend. The professional robberies have since subsided and have been replaced by less sensational robberies committed by highly addicted individuals looking for a quick fix, much like the one reported in September.

Rounding out the total was a taxicab robbery outside the Marriott hotel, a robbery of the Blockbuster Video store on Somerville Ave, a convenience store robbery at the Store 24 in Harvard Square, and a jewelry store robbery at the Galleria Mall. The taxicab was sitting outside the hotel when a car with three suspects pulled up and demanded the cab driver's money. The cab driver refused and the suspects fled. The Blockbuster Video robbery involved two suspects waiting behind a stairway for the daily deposits. When a worker came with the deposits, the suspects demanded them. A Cambridge man was later arrested. The robbery of the Store 24 involved a suspect who entered and attempted to take a sandwich without paying for it. When the worker tried to stop the suspect, the suspect took out a knife and stated that he was hungry and was taking the sandwich. The Piercing Pagoda reported that two suspects walked in, carrying a knife, and demanded three gold chains and three gold pendants. The suspects then fled, but left behind three cartons of cigarettes at the scene.

Street Robbery

Street robberies dropped 8% in the first three quarters of 2001. Of the 103 street robberies reported:

- Eight were "Acquaintance" robberies, committed by friends, co-workers, or drinking buddies.
- Seven were "Homeless" robberies, in which a homeless person was robbed usually by a group of kids or by other homeless.
- Five were "Bully Boy" robberies, in which school-aged youths robbed each other.
- Two were "Drug Deal" robberies, in which suspects approach their victims asking for drugs or if they'd like to buy drugs and then proceeded to rob them.
- Twelve were "Pack" robberies, where a group of young males used strong-arm tactics to relieve a victim of his money.
- Fifty-one were "Predatory" robberies, in which one or two offenders "mugged" their victims with a weapon or the threat of a weapon. Of these fifty robberies, twenty-six were classified as "crude," meaning that the robbers seemed edgy, unprepared, and unpredictable. The remaining twenty-five were "Professional," indicating that the robbers were collected, efficient, and effective.
- Twelve were "Purse Snatchings," in which the robber approached a female victim from behind and grabbed her purse.

Types of Weapons Used in Street Robberies This Year	
Type of Weapon	Number of Incidents Reported
No Weapon	20
Handgun	13
Hands/Feet	38
Knife	10
Implied Gun	3
Bar/Pipe/Stick/Club	2
Other/Unknown	17

Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies			
Neighborhood	3rd Q. 1999	3rd Q. 2000	3rd Q. 2001
East Cambridge	12	10	12
MIT	1	1	2
Inman/Harrington	16	16	7
Area 4	28	23	18
Cambridgeport	18	16	19
Mid-Cambridge	2	12	13
Riverside	9	15	8
Agassiz	1	1	4
Peabody	7	5	7
West Cambridge	3	6	8
North Cambridge	10	5	4
Cambridge Highlands	0	0	0
Strawberry Hill	1	2	1

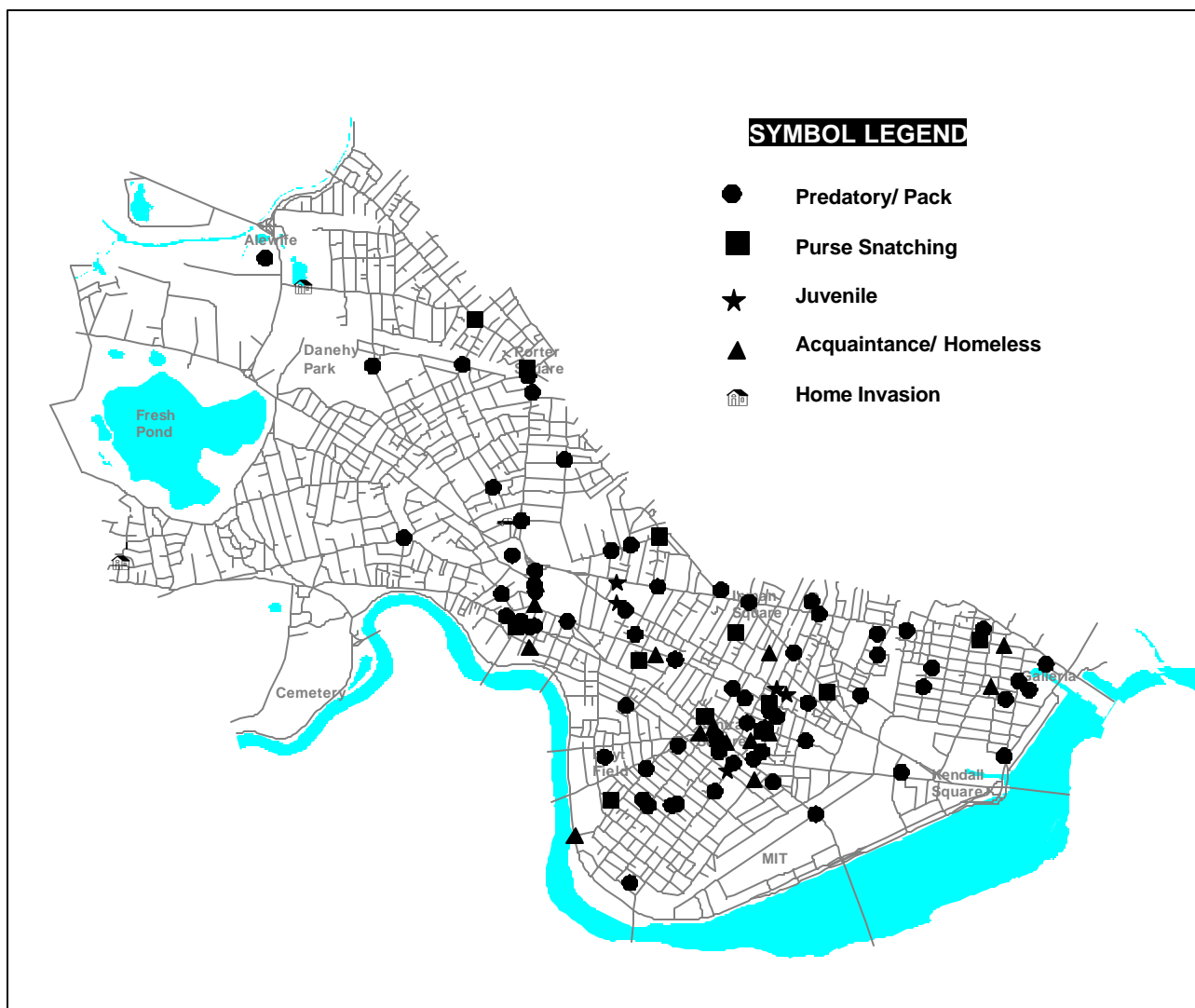
- Three were “Unprovoked,” in which victims found themselves in innocent situations that suddenly turned hostile.
- Two were “Home Invasions,” where robbers enter their victim’s homes, usually at night, subduing the residents, and robbing them. In January, two unknown suspects wielding a gun and wearing masks stopped two residents of 362 Rindge Ave. at the elevator. The suspects forced the residents back to their apartment and made them sit while they robbed them of all their belongings. The victims managed to escape unharmed. The second occurred in July when two unknown suspects entered the backdoor of a Thingvalla Avenue apartment. The suspects claimed to have a gun and took \$800 from the victim before fleeing.
- One was a “carjacking,” where robbers usually

approach their victim while they are getting in or out of their car, brandishing a weapon, and demand the car.

Street robbery series and trends observed in the first nine months of 2001:

- A series of robberies on Pearl and Harvard Streets. The three robberies occurred on or just prior to the weekend, just after midnight. The suspects seemed to target young male graduate students, walking alone at night. The suspects were described as two black males, wearing dark hooded jackets and brandishing either a knife or firearm.
- Two robberies in the Agassiz neighborhood in March. Both robberies took place between 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. One was on Shepard St. and the other was on Sacramento St. In both instances, a white male suspect carrying a handgun targeted young males walking by themselves.
- In late June, two male teenagers targeted male victims walking in the Cambridgeport and Riverside neighborhoods. In total, five robberies were reported. The robbers targeted victim’s wallets, specifically cash and credit cards.
- In mid to late August, a pattern of seven street robberies emerged. Despite a lack of geographic concentration, each of the victims provided a similar description of the suspect. Each of the victims were walking alone between 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. The suspect appeared to be aggressive and tackled or punched his victim before demanding money. A cell phone and beeper were also demanded on occasion. In several cases, the victims reported that the suspect was brandishing a knife.

Street Robberies Reported in Cambridge Between January 1, 2001 and September 30, 2001



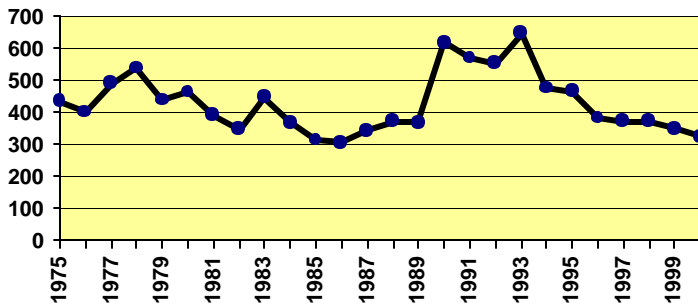
244 in 2000 · 226 in 2001
7% Decrease

Aggravated Assault

Aggravated Assault describes an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempts are included since it is not necessary that injury result when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed.

The number of aggravated assaults has decreased by 7%, and continues to be primarily domestic in nature. Out of the 266 total incidents reported, nearly half transpired within four neighborhoods – Cambridgeport, Area 4, East Cambridge, and Inman. Approximately one-third of the aggravated assaults resulted in arrests thus far in 2001, twenty-six of which occurred within the past three months.

Aggravated Assault in Cambridge, 1975-2000



assaults during the third quarter. The number of assaults were evenly spread out over the course of a week, with the exception of Sunday, which experienced seven incidents.

There were sixty aggravated assaults that were domestic in nature, accounting for 27% of the total number of assaults. Unprovoked (twenty-nine) and juvenile/gang (thirty) incidents contributed an additional 26% of the total 226 incidents. These three sub-categories can be accounted for nearly half of the aggravated assaults this quarter.

A majority of all the incidents over the past nine months involved parties that knew each other and/or had some relation to each other. This assisted the ability to make arrests of the perpetrators. Incidents were, for the most part, split fairly evenly among the three quarters this year. The first quarter hosted seventy-eight incidents, the second quarter had eighty-nine, while the third quarter accounted for fifty-nine incidents. July experienced the most number of

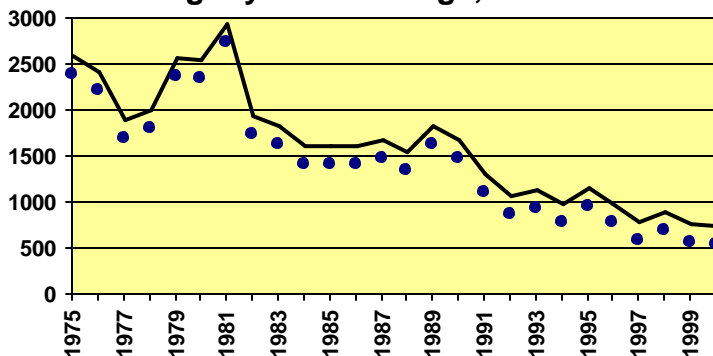
Classification	% of 2000 3 rd Q. Assaults	% of 2001 3 rd Q. Assaults
Acquaintance	10%	12%
Affray/Brawl	N/A	3%
Bar/Alcohol	4%	6%
Domestic	31%	27%
Homeless	4%	3%
Juvenile/Gang	7%	13%
Landlord/Neighbor	3%	2%
On Police Officer	2%	4%
Shop Owner/Patron	3%	2%
Traffic/Parking	7%	8%
Unprovoked	21%	13%
Workplace	2%	4%
Other	6%	3%

417 in 2000 · 479 in 2001
15% increase

Burglary

Burglary describes the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary attempts are included in the total.

Burglary in Cambridge, 1975-2000



Type	3rd Q. 2000	3rd Q. 2001	% Change
Commercial Burglary	129	98	- 24%
Residential Burglary	288	381	+ 32%
Total	417	479	+ 15%

Overall, burglary increased by 15% in the first nine months of 2001. This might indicate a possible spike this year in the otherwise downward spiral of this crime.

Commercial Burglary

Since the beginning of 2001, Cambridge has seen a steady decline in this crime. The first quarter recorded a prolific pattern of breaks into business offices in search of high-end electronics such as laptop and desktop computers. The second and third quarters of 2001 recorded no real patterns. While commercial breaks into retail establishments have remained steady as a hotspot for breaks, this year's trend of breaks into business offices starkly contrasts last year's pattern of construction breaks. While one is on the rise, the other is steadily declining. The 24% decrease continues the steady trend in this crime seen throughout the 1990s.

Among the several commercial burglary patterns reported during the first nine months of 2001:

- During the past three months, there have been fifty new commercial breaks, two of which resulted in arrests. One arrest was after an unsuccessful break of a gas station on Mass Ave. in the North Cambridge neighborhood. The other arrest was after a male posing as an employee entered the T.G.I. Friday's on Eliot St. through an open rear door, made a sandwich and left with a case of beer.
- Putnam Furnishings was broken into twice in mid-September on Mass Ave. in the Cambridgeport neighborhood. The first break was on a Wednesday when witnesses saw three suspects kick in the door and leave with a cashbox containing \$1000. The second break occurred approximately one week later when the front glass door was broken. It is unknown what is missing, if anything, from the second break.

TYPE	3rd Q. 2000	3rd Q. 2001
Misc. Retail Establishments	20	26
Industrial/Construction	34	10
Business Offices	20	15
Church	5	0
Cinema	0	0
Clothing Store	1	0
Bar/Restaurant	17	11
Hair/Beauty/Health	2	7
Auto Sales/Service	3	0
School	5	6
Assisted Living	2	0
Government Building	3	1
Parking Garage	1	1
Hotel	2	4
Laundromat	3	3
Bank	2	1
Other	9	13

\$50,000 inside of it.

Business District	3 rd Q. 1999	3 rd Q. 2000	3 rd Q. 2001
Galleria/East Cambridge	15	10	14
Kendall Square/MIT	10	27	7
Inman Square	13	19	16
Central Square	27	19	16
Cambridgeport/Riverside	7	1	10
Bay Square/Upper B.way	8	10	7
Harvard Square	16	9	6
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	4	7	5
Porter Square	18	13	12
Alewife/West Cambridge	7	14	5

- The Marriott Hotel in the MIT neighborhood has been one of many Marriott Hotels targeted in the area. In this break, the suspect followed the victim from the elevator and watched him enter his room. The victim later found the door to his room pried open and a \$2200 laptop missing. Security states that other hotels have been recently targeted in similar ways.
- The most expensive break occurred overnight on September 12 at 1712 Mass Ave. where the perpetrator gained entrance to a restaurant in an unknown manner. Once inside the premises, the basement office was broken into and the surveillance tape was stolen as well as a safe with

Residential Burglary

Residential burglaries, or "housebreaks," have increased 32% in the nine months of 2001. There wasn't an overall decrease or an overall increase within the neighborhood totals for housebreaks during the third quarter. The only neighborhood that experienced a substantial increase was Cambridgeport while other neighborhoods such as MIT and West Cambridge experienced significant decreases. A significant increase/decrease denotes a change of at least 50 percent in either direction.

Mid-Cambridge is a neighborhood that traditionally reports one of the highest number of housebreaks. So far this year, this trend continues as Mid-Cambridge reports the highest number of incidents of all the neighborhoods.

Neighborhood	3rd Q. 1999	3rd Q. 2000	3rd Q. 2001
East Cambridge	20	26	31
MIT	1	1	0
Inman/Harrington	24	20	29
Area 4	36	40	54
Cambridgeport	32	34	39
Mid-Cambridge	29	55	81
Riverside	17	26	45
Agassiz	17	14	13
Peabody	59	26	20
West Cambridge	27	15	35
North Cambridge	26	27	30
Cambridge Highlands	1	0	0
Strawberry Hill	7	4	4

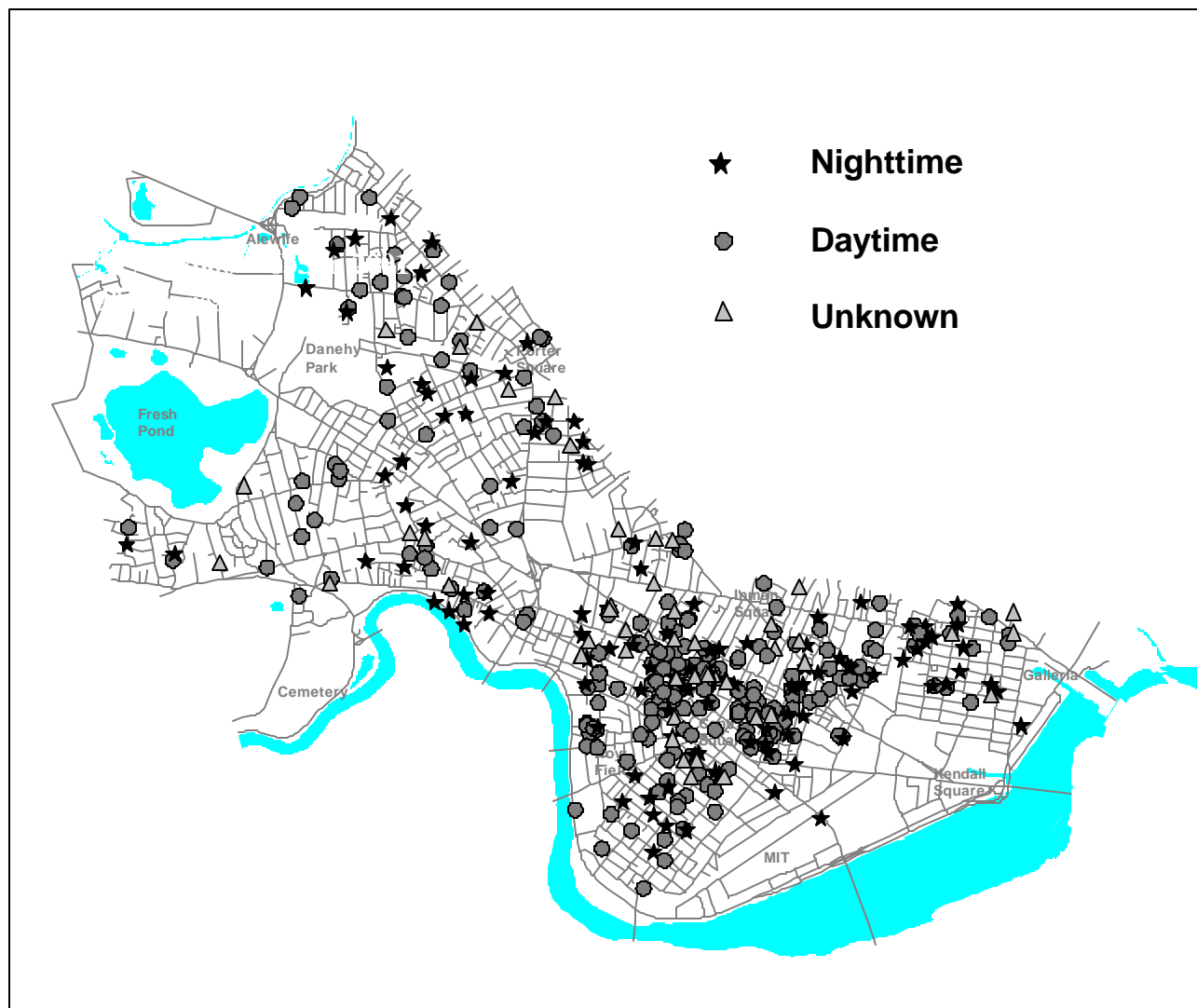
The month of July was marked with a dramatic spike of incidents reported in comparison to the average. Reports filed in from various geographical locations around the City. The vast majority of breaks were committed during the daytime on weekdays. Despite many reports of one or two breaks at a given location, there was only one housebreak pattern, which was in West Cambridge, during the first nine months of 2001. The following are some of the notable breaks:

- A pattern of housebreaks emerged in West Cambridge in late September. Numerous breaks were occurring late in the night, awaking residents by loud thumping noises, which was the perpetrator(s) entering through ground floor windows. The breaks were professional in nature

and items targeted ranged from expensive silverware to oriental rugs. Most occurred overnight on weekends.

- During the week of July 11th, three apartments on Magazine Street (Cambridgeport neighborhood) reported breaks during the day. A witness reported seeing two perpetrators going around the building, ringing doorbells and knocking on doors and prying one door open with a screwdriver. Of the three units broken into, one reported jewelry missing while another witness was able to give a description of the suspects.
- Twelve arrests were made this quarter. In the majority of incidents, entrance was gained by lifting a rear window and/or distracting the resident (i.e. ringing the doorbell) and entering through a rear window or door. On various occasions, the victim knew the arrestee.
- The 200-300 block of Harvard Street reported twenty-eight housebreaks in the third quarter of 2001, which is a 40% increase from the second quarter. One apartment building reported two incidents that occurred sometime overnight on 9/22. Entrance was gained via a rear porch door and targeted items included such high-end electronics such as laptops, DVD players, as well as jewelry and cash.
- The third week in June produced thirteen housebreaks, including a double break on Western Ave. The breaks took place during the daytime with suspects targeting typical items such as high-end electronics, CDs, and cash. However in one of the breaks, the suspect stole a handgun and an extra magazine of ammunition.

Housebreaks Reported in Cambridge Between January 1, 2001 and September 30, 2001



2148 in 2000 · 2109 in 2001
2% decrease

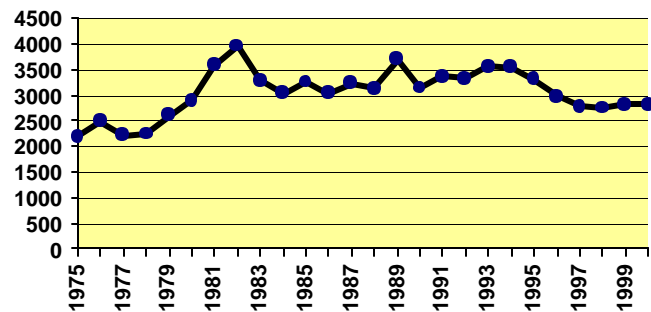
Larceny

Larceny is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of auto parts and accessories, horse thefts, and bicycle thefts, in which no use of force, violence, fraud, or trespass occurs. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, this crime category does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, and worthless checks. Motor vehicle theft is also excluded from this category, as it is a separate crime index offense.

Larceny (i.e., theft) remains the most common index crime. It accounts for a large percent of all serious crime reported in Cambridge. To facilitate analysis, the Crime Analysis Unit divides the crime of larceny

Type	3 rd Q. 2000	3 rd Q. 2001
Larceny from a Building	460	394
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	504	538
Larceny of a Bicycle	282	244
Larceny from a Person	270	334
Shoplifting	271	342
Larceny from a Residence	168	122
Larceny of Services	13	21
Larceny of a License Plate	119	75
Miscellaneous Larceny	61	39

into the sub-categories on the following page.



Larceny in Cambridge, 1975-2000

Despite a mere 2% decrease in total larcenies, sub-category totals changed significantly from last year, due to several patterns that emerged. The two most prolific and on-going patterns reported involved larcenies from motor vehicles in Area 4 and larcenies from persons in Harvard Square (reviewed below).

Larcenies from Building

Larcenies from buildings are non-burglary and non-shoplifting thefts from commercial establishments. "Non-burglary" means that either the offender had a specific right to be on the premises (e.g., he worked there) or the building was open to the general public, and that no force was used to gain entry to the building where the theft was committed.

Larcenies from buildings are further subdivided into 14 categories:		
Type	Jan.-Sept. 2001	% of Total
Company property from offices	84	21%
Personal property from offices	37	9%
Property from school classrooms	19	5%
Property left on store counters	39	10%
Property "forgotten" in restrooms & other locations	13	3%
Property unattended in bars	6	2%
Employee property in back rooms of stores	30	8%
Property left in health club locker	27	7%
Property unattended in other locations	45	11%
Cash missing from store safes	45	11%
Property left in hotel rooms	11	3%
Property stolen from construction sites	27	7%
Property stolen from the perimeter of the company.	10	3%
Other/Misc.	1	0%

Clearly, the majority of larcenies from buildings occurred in businesses, where office property was targeted. Overall, larcenies from buildings decreased by 14 percent in the third quarter of 2001. The following is a review of the patterns and trends recorded by the Crime Analysis Unit so far in 2001.

- The majority of *larcenies from buildings* occurred at various office buildings around the city. The typical scenario involved a suspect coming into the office, claiming to be looking for a job or using the bathroom, and then sneaking into empty offices to take laptops and wallets.
- By far, the most *larcenies from buildings* were reported at the Galleria Mall. In a majority of the incidents, businesses suspected employees or ex-employees of stealing deposits. Cash deposits that were placed in a safe at closing time would mysteriously disappear sometime between then and the following morning. Other incidents involved cash registers being short of large sums of money at closing time.

Health clubs have traditionally reported patterns of *larcenies from buildings*. Only three larcenies from health clubs were reported in the first quarter of 2001, compared to the twelve that were reported in the second quarter. Bally's Fitness Center, located at 1815 Massachusetts Avenue reported the most incidents.

These larcenies typically occur during the week at lunchtime or shortly after 5 p.m. when people start to get out of work. Clients of the club put their belongings in a locker supplied by the club, go workout, and then return to find that someone has entered their locker and stolen their credit cards.

In 1999, Central Square unexpectedly took the lead in larcenies from buildings. In 2000 the numbers declined significantly, but now once again Central Square larcenies from buildings are on the rise. The offices at 99 Bishop Allen Drive reported numerous incidents of wallets being stolen from offices during lunchtime and the YMCA, located at 820 Mass. Ave., reported several thefts from lockers located in the health club. No other major patterns were reported.

The Kendall/MIT district became a rampant hotspot for thefts of laptops as more and more technology firms moved into the area. Most of the thefts were attributed to security, cleaning, maintenance, or other staff who have full access to the buildings. However, so far this year, thefts in this district have been cut in half.

Business District	2000	2001	Change
Galleria/East Cambridge	84	88	+5%
Kendall Square/MIT	93	46	-51%
Inman Square	34	20	-41%
Central Square	44	64	+46%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	20	26	+30%
Bay Square/Broadway	31	16	-48%
Harvard Square	58	51	-12%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	26	26	N.C.
Porter Square	20	20	N.C.
Alewife/West Cambridge	48	37	-23%
Unknown	2	0	Incal.

Larcenies from Motor Vehicles

With a 7 percent, or a 34 incident increase, larcenies from motor vehicles have slowed, but continue to climb.

Larcenies from motor vehicles involve an offender either breaking into a car and stealing valuables within (e.g., cellular telephones, car stereos), or stealing an exterior accessory (e.g., tires, hubcaps). In an average year, it is second only to malicious destruction (vandalism) as the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge.

Patterns occur in commercial areas during the day and in residential areas during the night. Commercial hotspots have traditionally included mall and business area parking lots and garages. Residential hotspots include parking lots at large apartment buildings and complexes.

Neighborhood	2000	2001	%Change
East Cambridge	77	61	-21%
MIT	18	25	+40%
Inman/Harrington	18	26	+44%
Area 4	89	82	-8%
Cambridgeport	73	76	+4%
Mid-Cambridge	47	65	+38%
Riverside	19	27	+42%
Agassiz	17	25	+47%
Peabody	46	52	+13%
West Cambridge	40	31	-23%
North Cambridge	34	48	+41%
Cambridge Highlands	16	10	-38%
Strawberry Hill	10	10	N.C.

Most of the neighborhoods experienced some increase in larcenies from motor vehicles this year, as compared to the same time last year.

The Agassiz neighborhood reported the most significant increase in incidents this year, however there were no patterns reported.

One major pattern that seems to come-and-go, but never disappears is a pattern of *larcenies from motor vehicles* in the Area 4 neighborhood. This year, this pattern extended past Central Square and into the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood. The majority of the Area 4 breaks occurred in the Bishop Allen Drive area in close

proximity to Norfolk, Columbia, and Main Streets. Specifically, incidents were mainly reported on weeknights between 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Following the report of an eyewitness on March 10th, a resident of Area 4 was apprehended and arrested for trying door handles and entering cars parked within this area. The resident had previously been arrested for committing the same crime in the same area. The third quarter brought another lull in this pattern.

Over the summer, a cluster of *larcenies from motor vehicles* emerged at the parking lots of 362-364 Rindge Ave. Most of the thieves entered the motor vehicles by smashing the window. Various items were taken ranging from a spare tire to airbags. This pattern seemed to drop off in late July.

A cluster of *larcenies from motor vehicles* was also reported this summer near the intersection of Memorial Drive and Pleasant Street. The cluster included three nighttime breaks into cars in the Radisson parking garage on July 1st. Entries were made by smashing windows and various items were stolen. Later, two cars were burglarized at the intersection of Pleasant & Florence Streets on the night of July 17th. This brief pattern came to an end on July 19th with the arrests of two Cambridge men who were spotted breaking the window of a Mercury Marquis on Tufts Street.

In March, a spree of five *larcenies from motor vehicles* was reported from the parking garage at Mount Auburn Hospital. In most of the incidents, the thieves popped out the door lock and once inside stole electronics and cash.

A spree of four *larcenies from motor vehicles* was reported at the parking garage at 100 Memorial Drive in September. The thieves smashed the window of each motor vehicle to gain entry and once inside targeted cash.

On June 1st, a spree of four *larcenies from motor vehicles* was reported on Kelley Street in the Peabody neighborhood. It is unknown how the suspect(s) entered the vehicles, but they targeted easily visible items such as cash and CD players.

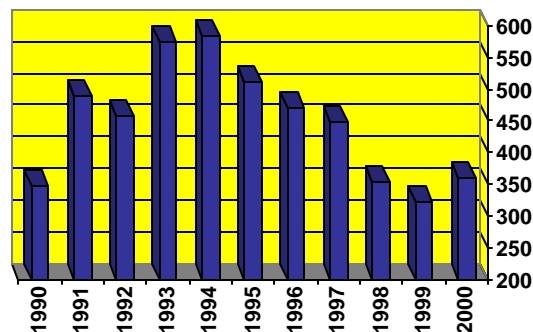
Larcenies of Bicycles

The Cambridge Police Department's bicycle theft statistics do not include thefts reported on MIT or Harvard University property. These additional thefts could add several hundred to the total.

Between 1989 and 1994, bicycle theft exhibited a sharp ascent, soaring from an average of 270 per year in the 1980s to 575 in 1993. In 2000, Cambridge

Neighborhood	2000	2001	Change
East Cambridge	18	21	+17%
MIT	14	7	-50%
Inman/Harrington	21	7	-67%
Area 4	24	20	-17%
Cambridgeport	33	40	+21%
Mid-Cambridge	39	32	-18%
Riverside	31	23	-26%
Agassiz	16	12	-25%
Peabody	14	15	+7%
West Cambridge	29	31	+7%
North Cambridge	34	27	-21%
Cambridge Highlands	1	5	+400%
Strawberry Hill	8	4	-50%

Bicycle Larceny, 1990-2000



experienced a slight increase in the otherwise declining crime. It looks as though this year the totals will once again start decreasing.

The year 2000 was marked with a strange pattern of sharp increases and decreases throughout the year. The surges became more significant as the summer months approached, and became less significant as the year ended. So far this year bicycle thefts have gone back to the more traditional pattern of gradual increases into the summer months, a peak, and then the gradual decreases of

incidents into the winter months.

1. In 1996, about 70% of stolen bicycles were stolen from the street—from meters, signs, and bike racks, locked or unlocked. The other 30% were stolen from residential areas such as back yards, front porches, apartment building basements, and garages. In 1997, this ratio changed to about 50% “street” thefts and 50% “residential” thefts. Finally, in 1998 and 1999, it was inverted from 1996, with about 60% occurring from residential areas. In other words, bicycle theft began moving away from an unprotected, street environment to protected, residential areas where the bicycles’ owners believe the bicycles to be safe. This year bicycle thefts have tipped the scale again towards unprotected “street” thefts.
2. The traditional summertime peak has been blunted in recent years, but has returned this year with an enormous surge in activity in July.

Larcenies from Person

Larcenies from persons describes pocket-picking or any theft which occurs within the victim's area of control. The thefts are non-confrontational, and the victim is usually not aware of the theft until after it has occurred. If a confrontation between the offender and the victim occurs, the crime is recorded as a robbery.

Larceny from persons increased by 24 percent in the third quarter of 2001, but most of them still fell into two main scenarios:

1. A diner places his or her jacket over the back of a chair, or places her purse under her chair. Someone sitting behind the victim goes through the coat or purse, taking the valuables within, or takes the coat or purse entirely. This accounts for 31 percent of larcenies from person. As always, larcenies from persons continue to plague restaurants and bars in the Harvard Square area. Despite possible fluctuations in the intensity of this pattern, it is ever-present. Analysis reveals that these larcenies typically occur between 2:15 to 6:30 p.m. at cafés.

Business District	2000	2001	Change
Galleria/East Camb.	36	46	+28%
Kendall Square/MIT	18	14	-22%
Inman Square	9	21	+133%
Central Square	49	61	+25%
Cambridgeport/Riverside	4	12	+200%
Bay Square/Broadway	8	8	N.C.
Harvard Square	100	104	+4%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	8	10	+25%
Porter Square	17	22	+29%
Alewife/West Cambridge	16	31	+94%
Unknown	5	5	N.C.

2. A shopper, usually in a supermarket, keeps her purse in her cart. While she is distracted selecting merchandise, someone pilfers the purse from the cart. This scenario accounted for about 16 percent of reported thefts. This type of theft is not localized in any particular area of the city.

The incidents of pocket-picking, where a suspect reaches into the victim's coat, purse, or backpack and removes valuables while the victim is walking, have significantly declined. Pocket-picking requires a particular skill that modern criminals increasingly fail to develop. Harvard Square reports the highest pocket-picking numbers, with concentrations between noon and 4 p.m.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting incidents increased 26% in the third quarter of 2001. 37% of all shoplifting incidents occurred at the Cambridge-side Galleria. Harvard Square makes up the majority of the remaining incidents.

Shoplifters usually fall into one of five categories:

1. **Juvenile Shoplifters** who steal on a dare, to impress their peers, to get an "adrenaline rush," or to compensate for lack of money.
2. **Impulse Shoplifters** who seize a sudden chance, such as an unattended dressing room or a blind aisle. Sometimes, the "impulse" is a long line or sudden lack of money.
3. **Alcoholics, vagrants, and drug addicts**, who steal erratically and clumsily. When caught, this type of shoplifter is more likely than others to get violent (see "Shop Owner/Patron" assaults in the Assault section).
4. **Kleptomaniacs** who steal to satisfy a psychological need.
5. **Professionals**, who steal expensive items and resell them to fences or "flea markets."

Business District	2000	2001	Change
Galleria/East Camb.	96	134	+40%
Kendall Square/MIT	4	1	-75%
Inman Square	7	5	-29%
Central Square	33	53	+61%
Camb.port/Riverside	17	19	+12%
Bay Square/Broadway	3	4	+33%
Harvard Square	64	66	+3%
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	8	5	-38%
Porter Square	17	16	-6%
Alewife/West Camb.	22	39	+77%

Since shoplifting incidents are most often reported only when an arrest is made, an increase in shoplifting may be viewed positively: more thieves are being caught. On the other hand, since the vast majority of shoplifting incidents are unseen and go unknown until the store checks its inventory, underreporting of

shoplifting is a serious problem. The actual shoplifting number may be four to seven times the statistic given in this report.

Larceny from Residences

Larcenies from Residences are non-burglary thefts from apartments, hallways, garages, and yards. “Non-burglary” means that no force or trespass was involved in the theft: people who have the right to be on the property commit the thefts. They include thefts committed by guests, roommates, family members, workers, and home health care providers. They also include thefts committed from common areas of apartment buildings, and thefts committed from property surrounding a house, such as the front yard, walkway, or tool shed. Since larcenies from residences are usually committed by someone who knows the victim, pattern identification and intervention by the police department is difficult. This crime decreased 27 percent from 2000. One pattern to watch involves the theft of mail and packages delivered by parcel services.

Neighborhood	2000	2001	Change
East Cambridge	15	14	-7%
MIT	0	0	N.C.
Inman/Harrington	14	10	-29%
Area 4	28	19	-32%
Cambridgeport	27	16	-41%
Mid-Cambridge	25	17	-32%
Riverside	10	10	N.C.
Agassiz	4	3	-25%
Peabody	22	9	-59%
West Cambridge	8	8	N.C.
North Cambridge	11	11	N.C.
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	N.C.
Strawberry Hill	3	4	+33%

The most common larceny from residence scenarios are:

- Thefts committed by visitors or guests to a residence: 21%
- Thefts from a yard, porch, or other area surrounding a residence: 17%
- Thefts committed by a family member, spouse, or romantic partner (i.e., “domestic thefts”): 15%
- Thefts committed by someone working in the apartment, such as a painter, plumber, contractor, or maintenance man: 8%
- Thefts from a common hallway, foyer, or storage area of an apartment building: 19%
- Thefts of mail or packages delivered by a parcel service: 5%

Patterns of larcenies from residences are extremely rare; they are often committed by neighbors or other people living in the victim’s apartment building.

Larceny of Services

This crime includes taxicab fare evasion, “dining and ditching,” “gassing and going,” and other failures to pay for services already rendered.

2001 occurrences have broke down as follows:

- 57% theft of gasoline

- 10% drove out of a parking garage without paying.
- 10% “dining & ditching” (i.e., running out of a restaurant without paying for the check)
- 14% cab fare evasions
- 9% miscellaneous

Larceny of License Plates

Neighborhood	2000	2001	Change
East Cambridge	21	14	+17%
MIT	4	2	-50%
Inman/Harrington	11	10	-9%
Area 4	17	8	-53%
Cambridgeport	16	10	-38%
Mid-Cambridge	7	7	N.C.
Riverside	6	5	-17%
Agassiz	6	1	-83%
Peabody	11	4	-64%
West Cambridge	7	3	-57%
North Cambridge	11	9	-18%
Cambridge Highlands	1	1	N.C.
Strawberry Hill	1	1	N.C.

A crime related to Larcenies from Motor Vehicles is the self-explanatory Larcenies of License Plates, which decreased 37 percent between the third quarter of 2000 and the third quarter of 2001. Stolen plates are often used to replace license plates on stolen automobiles of the same make and model, or to give a plate to an unregistered motor vehicle. Since the theft of a license plate is often unnoticed and unreported for several weeks, the thief's stolen or unregistered car is somewhat protected from detection during that time.

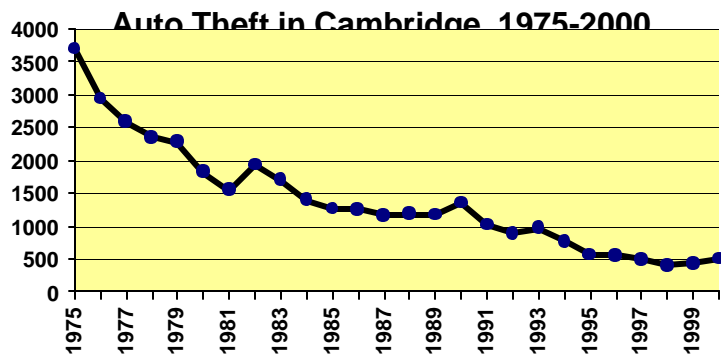
However, new computer technologies which allow patrol officers to quickly check the status of a license plate (and what car it belongs to) are making this crime risky for thieves, thus lowering the rate.

It should be noted that many plates reported stolen simply fell off the vehicle, but when in doubt, the loss is recorded as a larceny.

347 in 2000 · 407 in 2001
17% increase

Auto Theft

Defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, this offense category includes the theft of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, and snowmobiles. This definition excludes the taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by persons having lawful access.



Auto theft increased slightly over the first three quarters of 2001. This crime has dropped steadily over the past 20 years thanks to crackdowns on fraud by insurance companies and to the near-elimination of auto “chop shops” in the Boston area.

Modern auto theft is usually committed by teenagers looking to “joyride” or by other petty thieves looking for short-term transportation.

Over 70% of stolen cars are eventually recovered – most of them relatively intact.

The following are a few patterns reported in the third quarter of 2001:

- 700 Block of Memorial Drive: Addresses along this stretch of Memorial Drive indicate one of the hottest areas citywide for this crime type. Most of these thefts occurred on weekdays between afternoon and early evening.
- Rindge Avenue: Numerous motor vehicles were stolen from the parking lots at the Rindge Ave. apartments. This area repeatedly tops our list of locations with a high number of auto thefts. Most occurred on the weekends with Hondas and Acuras being the most popular stolen auto.
- Area 4: Area 4 has surpassed all the other neighborhoods in motor vehicle related crimes. Patterns of auto thefts and larcenies from motor vehicles have been tightly clustered around Bishop Allen Drive, Main Street, and Norfolk Street. The thefts occur mostly during the week at varied times. Honda Accords, Toyota Camrys, and Toyota Corollas are popular targets.

Neighborhood	3 rd Q. 1999	3 rd Q. 2000	3 rd Q. 2001
East Cambridge	54	47	45
MIT	17	21	13
Inman/Harrington	25	29	26
Area 4	49	69	64
Cambridgeport	41	46	58
Mid-Cambridge	14	30	34
Riverside	22	16	32
Agassiz	4	9	11
Peabody	19	26	30
West Cambridge	16	11	25
North Cambridge	30	26	36
Cambridge Highlands	4	11	21
Strawberry Hill	2	3	12
Unknown	0	3	0

MAKES		MODELS	
Honda	78	Honda Accord	33
Toyota	51	Honda Civic	30
Ford	47	Toyota Camry	21
Acura	29	Toyota Corolla	19
Chevrolet	15	Acura Integra	18
Nissan	14	Ford Escort	10
Dodge	12	Nissan Maxima	7
Jeep	11	Ford Taurus	6
Buick	9	Acura Legend	5
Yamaha	7	Toyota Tercel	5

Top

Ten Makes & Models Stolen

Hondas topped the list of stolen vehicles in the first six months of 2001. Not surprisingly, Toyotas followed closely behind. Sport-utility vehicles had previously started to creep up the list, however this year not even one made the top ten.

**Auto Thefts Reported in Cambridge Between
January 1, 2001 and September 30, 2001**

